THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) For Rabi Marketing Season 2001-02 storage cost has provisionally been allowed uniformly @ Rs. 21.00 per tonne per month to various States, including Punjab and Haryana, which procure wheat for the Central Pool. The storage cost is not fixed-city-wise separately.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Forward trading in agricultural products

4153. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO :
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow "forward trading" in agricultural products to develop national market; and

(b) if so, by when, it would be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Government propose to widen the scope of future trading by including major agricultural commodities that are suitable for futures trading. The suitability of such commodities is studied/evaluated in terms of the volume of production, marketable surplus, product homogeneity, price fluctuations and operation of the existing market at the time the commodity is proposed. As such, no time limit can be specified.

Accuracy of dispensing units/pumps for petrol and diesel

4154. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the accuracy of dispensing units/pumps for dispensing petrol/diesel are tested with the standard working measures as per Weights and Measures Act and the same is kept under the custody of the official of department;